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Foreword

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FOREWORD

The European Union Center of California hosted the joint Claremont–University of California Undergraduate Research Conference on the European Union on April 12–13, 2012, at Scripps College in Claremont, California. A total of 55 students presented papers written on various topics related to the European Union. These students represented 30 different schools: Algoma University, American University, Brigham Young University, California State University at Monterey Bay, Case Western Reserve University, Christopher Newport University, Claremont McKenna College, Dickinson College, Gonzaga University, Indiana University, Oakland University, Pitzer College, Pomona College, Rutgers University, Scripps College, Southwestern University, Swarthmore College, Temple University, The George Washington University, Transylvania University, Trinity University, The University of California at Los Angeles, The University of California at Riverside, The University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Florida, University of Pittsburgh, The University of Southern California, The University of Utah, The University of Washington, and The University of Wisconsin at Madison. This volume is a compilation of the top papers presented at the conference.

The student conference was modeled on professional academic conferences. Each student presented his or her own research to a panel moderated by a faculty discussant whose primary tasks included providing constructive feedback and stimulating discussion of the issues at hand. The conference was likewise designed with specific goals in mind: to promote the visibility of European Union Studies and expose the participants to different intellectual and academic traditions within this field; to motivate student research and hone analytical, writing and presentation skills; and to strengthen the curriculum on European Union Studies at participating campuses by encouraging faculty interaction with students, not only with respect to their expertise in particular research areas but also by conveying general knowledge about contemporary Europe to students. Hence, the research presented in this volume reflects a collaborative effort to involve students in academic research and policy debates on issues involving the European Union.

The subject matter in the papers reflects the diversity of the student authors. The paper by **Joana Allamani** assesses the nature and effectiveness of the European Union’s democracy promotion policy in Albania. **Stephanie Benedict** examines press freedom and freedom of speech in the European Union and its candidate countries, using France, Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Croatia as case studies. **Madison Campbell** and **Elisa DeMartino** argue that Turkey should refrain from EU membership because its strategically advantageous position makes it beneficial to conduct foreign policy as an individual unit. **Bryce Comstock** analyzes factors that can inhibit or advance the socialization process within the EU, focusing specifically on the experience of members of the Political and Security Committee. **Caitlin Daw** uses case studies from the Basque country, Scotland, and Slovakia to examine the EU’s regional policy. **Alexander El Alaoui** challenges the stability hypothesis of the “German Model”, and highlights the role of EU integration in reshaping the German political economy. **Cassandra Emmons** discusses how the EU and its institutions have been received by the other members of the Quartet for Middle East Peace, and asks whether the EU is an influential group member. **Kurt Hepler** explores the impact of the strong EU presence

in Bosnia's state-building process on state institutional and capacity development. **Andreas Jozwiak** uses a regression analysis to examine the relationship between people's personal characteristics and their views towards integration and immigration. **Stephanie Lester** explores factors contributing to the emigration of well-educated Spanish youth and uses the Spanish case to extrapolate on the implications of labor mobility for an integrated market in the European Union. Finally, **Stephanie Schneider** argues that a financial transaction tax will be beneficial to the EU because of its effects on price volatility and speculation, as well as its feasibility.

The conference was hosted by the European Union Center of California, and the administration of the conference by Center's staff, headed by Zaynah Rahman, was indispensable to its success. Zaynah's fine editing of this volume also allows us to share the results of the conference with a wider audience. In addition, we owe a debt of gratitude for the financial and administrative support provided by the European Union Center of Excellence at UC Berkeley; the Institute of European Studies at UC Berkeley; the Colorado European Union Center of Excellence at the University of Colorado at Boulder; the David M. Kennedy Center at Brigham Young University; the Brigham Young University Center for the Study of Europe; the University of Southern California's School of International Relations; and, the European Union Center of Excellence at the University of Washington.

We are grateful to our keynote speaker, Dr. Brigid Laffan, Professor of European politics at University College Dublin, for sharing her expertise and knowledge regarding the financial crisis in the European Union. Dr. Laffan's remarks were entitled, "Euro Crisis: From Muddling Through to Getting Through?".

Special thanks are due as well to the faculty discussants who donated their time and expertise with the students, including Steven Casper, *Keck Graduate Institute*; Beverly Crawford, *UC Berkeley*; Mai'a Cross, *The University of Southern California*; Patricia Dillon, *Scripps College*; Thomas Ilgen, *Pitzer College*; Wade Jacoby, *Brigham Young University*; Jeffrey Pennington, *UC Berkeley*; Branislav Radeljic, *The University of East London*; Hans Rindisbacher, *Pomona College*; Jennifer Taw, *Claremont McKenna College*; Phil Zuckerman, *Pitzer College*; and, Scott Gould, *The W.M. Keck Science at the Claremont Colleges*. Keynote speaker Brigid Laffan also served as a panel discussant. The participation of these individuals established a high standard for the conference, and greatly enriched the experience of the students.

Ultimately, the success of the conference was due to the outstanding contributions of the student participants. As the selections in this volume make clear, their papers demonstrated both serious intellectual maturity and genuine research skills. The result was a conference that was both thoughtful and stimulating.

David M. Andrews, Director
European Union Center of California